Claims:

1. A method of identifying an attenuated respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) strain that produces high yields of RSV surface glycoproteins F and G when compared with the parent A2 strain, which method comprises:
providing a eukaryotic cell culture;
infecting the eukaryotic cell culture with a live, attenuated RSV strain; and
determining the glycoprotein concentration in the harvest of the culture,
wherein at least a five-fold increase in glycoprotein concentration is an indication that the attenuated RSV strain produces high yields of RSV F and G glycoproteins when compared with the parent A2 strain.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identified attenuated RSV strain is the RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the eukaryotic cell culture is a VERO, MRC-5, FRhL, CEF or PER.C6 cell culture.

4. A process for producing purified RSV F protein comprising:
growing eukaryotic cells infected with the RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404 in a cultured medium at 30°C;
solubilizing the F protein from the virus-infected cell membrane; and
isolating and purifying the solubilized F protein.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the isolating and purifying is effected by loading the solubilized F protein onto an ion-exchange matrix, and eluting the F protein from the ion-exchange matrix.

6. The process of claim 4, wherein the eukaryotic cells are VERO, MRC-5, FRhL, CEF or PER.C6 cells.

7. A process for producing an immunogenic composition for protecting against disease caused by RSV, wherein said process comprises producing an RSV F protein by a process according to either claim 4 or claim 5 and bringing an effective amount of said F protein into combination or association with physiologically acceptable carrier.

8. Purified RSV F protein produced by the process of any one of claims 4 to 6.

9. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) fusion (F) protein, produced by a process comprising:
growing RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404 on eukaryotic cells in a cultured medium at 30°C;
solubilizing the F protein from the separated virus; and
isolating and purifying the solubilized F protein by ion-exchange chromatography.

10. The isolated RSV F protein of claim 9, wherein the eukaryotic cells are VERO, MRC-5, FRhL, CEF or PER.C6 cells.

11. A process for producing purified RSV G protein comprising:
growing eukaryotic cells infected with the RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404 in a cultured medium at 30°C;
solubilizing the G protein from the virus-infected cell membrane; and
isolating and purifying the solubilized G protein.

12. The process of claim 10, wherein the isolating and purifying is effected by loading the solubilized G protein onto ion-exchange and affinity matrixes, and eluting the G protein from the matrixes.

13. The process of claim 10, wherein the eukaryotic cells are VERO, MRC-5, FRhL, CEF or PER.C6 cells.

14. A process for producing an immunogenic composition for protecting against disease caused by RSV, wherein said process comprises producing an RSV G protein by a process according to any one of claims 11 to 13 and bringing an effective amount of said G protein into combination or association with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

15. Purified RSV G protein produced by the process of any one of claims 11 to 13.

16. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) attachment (G) protein, produced by a process comprising:
growing RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404 on eukaryotic cells in a cultured medium at 30°C;
solubilizing the G protein from the separated virus; and
isolating and purifying the solubilized G protein by ion-exchange and affinity chromatography.

17. The isolated RSV G protein of claim 16, wherein the eukaryotic cells are VERO, MRC-5, FRhL, CEF or PER.C6 cells.

18. Use of an RSV mutant strain *cpts*-248/404 in the preparation of an RSV envelope fusion (F) protein and / or RSV attachment (G) glycoprotein.